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November 1, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT FOURTH YEAR
GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME (OVC) FOR THE URBAN
HIGH CRIME NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (UHCNI) PROGRAM
(SECOND DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to accept fourth year grant funds from OVC for the UHCNI Program. The grant award amount of \$100,000 fully offsets program costs for the period of September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director for the UHCNI Program and to sign and approve any revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not increase the net County cost of the Agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from OVC in the amount of \$100,000 for the period of September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006 to improve existing comprehensive services to the unserved and underserved victims of crime in the Watts Community.

Board authorization is required to accept the grant award for this period.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Acceptance of the grant funds supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility by securing an available revenue source at the federal level. The program is part of the District Attorney's commitment to helping victims of crime by alleviating trauma and devastating effects of crime on the lives of victims and their families.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This is the fourth year of grant funding for the program. The grant award amount of \$100,000 fully offsets program costs for the period of September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006.

Program staffing consists of one Assistant Program Administrator at 10%, one Supervising Victim Service Representative at 30%, one Victim Service Representative I at 100%, and one Victim Service Representative II at 100%.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS

The Watts Community has several unique social, economic, and societal factors. There are two primary ethnic groups that represent the community, African American (44%) and Latino (56%). The community has a high crime rate with criminal activities prevalent within four housing developments. Residents regularly are victims of homicides, gang violence, drug use and sales, extortion, aggravated assault and battery, armed robbery, sexual assaults, domestic violence, and burglary.

In the first year of the UHCNI grant award, a needs-assessment was conducted to identify the unmet needs of crime victims in the Watts Community and a plan was devised to meet those needs. In the second year, a strategic plan was developed for implementing victim services in the Watts Community. Also developed were evaluation, public awareness, and resource development plans. With the third year of funding, the strategic plan was implemented and services were provided to crime victims in the Watts Community.

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The Victim Center provided first-time services to 335 victims and provided continuing services to 293 victims during this period.

In this fourth year, services will continue to be provided to crime victims in the Watts Community. A public awareness campaign and resource development plan will also be implemented to inform and educate underserved victims and expand victim services. The grant funding will also enable the UHCNI to establish self-sustaining services for crime victims in the community after OVC funding ends.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments.

CONCLUSION

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two copies of the adopted Board letter to Ms. Rowena Solorzano, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Solorzano at (213) 202-7668 or via email at Rsolorza@lacountyda.org

Very truly yours,


STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

rs:mmmb

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel